

## Message Text

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71-62

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPTE-00 SY-05 OPR-02 L-03

DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /033 W

----- 014683

R 072000Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4943

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL MERIDA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS BELIZE 0414

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC BEGN ETRD BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE IMMIGRATION POLICY AFFECTING US CITIZENS

THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CIRCULATE THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY:

### IMMIGRATION POLICY IN BELIZE AFFECTING US CITIZENS

US CITIZENS CONTEMPLATING A VISIT TO BELIZE ARE CAUTIONED THAT IN MATTERS OF IMMIGRATION, RESIDENCE, OR STAY, THEY CANNOT EXPECT TO ENJOY THE CONSTITUTIONAL "RIGHTS", "DUE PROCESS", OR PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS WHICH ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN THE U.S. BELIZE IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS HAVE WIDE DISCRETIONARY POWERS GENERALLY IMMUNE FROM COURT CHALLENGE OR REVIEW.

UNDER SECTION 163 OF THE LAWS OF BELIZE (THE IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE) BELIZE IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES MAY REFUSE ADMISSION TO ANY NON-BELIZEAN, MAY REVOKE A PERMIT TO STAY, AND MAY SIMPLY DECLARE ANY NON-BELIZEAN TO BE A "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT" AND ORDER HIS IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE. THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE PRIOR NOTICE OR TO SHOW CAUSE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. IN ADDITION, UNDER SECTION 109 (ALIENS ORDINANCE), THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS MAY

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DECLARE ANY NON-BELIZEAN TO BE A "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT" AND ORDER

HIS ARREST, DETENTION, AND FORCIBLE DEPORTATION WITHOUT NOTICE AND WITHOUT POSSIBILITY OF COURT CHALLENGE.

IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1976, OVER 300 U.S. CITIZENS WERE REFUSED ENTRY INTO BELIZE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY HAD LONG HAIR, A BEARD, A BACKPACK, OR OTHER SUGGESTION OF "HIPPIE APPEARANCE." THOSE ADMITTED WERE OFTEN GIVEN ONLY 1 TO 3 DAYS STAY EVEN WHEN THEY HAD FUNDS SUFFICIENT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AT US 30 DOLS PER DAY.

MANY US CITIZENS HAVE BEEN TOLD ABRUPTLY THAT THEIR STAY COULD NOT BE EXTENDED AS USUAL AND HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE WITHIN 24 HOURS. A NUMBER OF THEM HAD APPLICATIONS FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE PENDING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. A FEW HAVE BEEN FORCIBLY DEPORTED WITHIN HOURS OF SUDDEN ARREST AS "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS." MOST US CITIZENS ARRESTED ON OTHER CHARGES SUCH AS POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA OR BLACK CORAL HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES DECLARED "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS" WITHIN HOURS AFTER THEIR COURT HEARING, EVEN WHEN THEY WERE ACQUITTED OR THE CHARGES WERE DROPPED.

US CITIZENS PLANNING TO VISIT, STAY, RESIDE, OR DO BUSINESS IN BELIZE ARE URGED TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE POSSIBLE EFFECT OF CURRENT BELIZE IMMIGRATION POLICY ON THEIR PLANS.  
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**TAGS:** CASC, CVIS, ETRD, PGOV, BH, US  
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